Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Harry Leonard Birath was born on April 9, 1927, at Lake Norden, South Dakota, to Einar and Ellen Birath who came through Ellis Island from Stockholm, Sweden; and,

Whereas, In 1945, Harry graduated from Brookings High School, where he was class president, homecoming king and lettered in football, track and basketball; and,

Whereas, Harry served in the Army Air Corps in 1945 during WWII and was stationed in Germany, returned from the war and graduated from the Minnesota School of Banking in Minneapolis with a business management degree in 1949; and,

Whereas, Harry married Mardella Smith, his high school sweetheart, on October 29, 1950, at the First Lutheran Church in Brookings and to that union four children were born: Bob, Dick, Tom and Barb who have blessed their lives with nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Harry gave over 36 years of service to Wells Fargo Bank as manager of the Brookings, Lake Preston and Parker branches; and,

Whereas, Harry served his community through numerous service organizations, is an active member at First Lutheran Church and is a loyal fan and passionate about his support of South Dakota State University; and,

Whereas, Harry's love of athletics has earned him a spot in the South Dakota Senior Olympics Hall of Fame, and his love of fishing, boating, camping in a tent, scuba diving and interest in old cars have filled his leisure time over the years; and,

Whereas, Harry will observe his 80th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare and celebration such a milestone warrants as his family and friends gather on April 7, 2007, in Sioux Falls, and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2007, as

HARRY BIRATH DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State